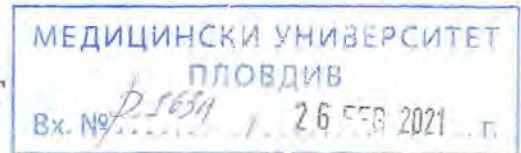


## STATEMENT

by



ASSOC. PROF. NIKOLAY SVETOSLAVOV YANEV, MD, DMD, PHD  
HEAD OF „MAXILLO-FACIAL SURGERY“ DEPARTMENT AT THE  
UNIVERSITY MULTYPROFILE ACUTE HOSPITAL „N. I. PIROGOV“  
CONSIDERING A THESIS FOR AWARDING THE SCIENTIFIC DEGREE  
"DOCTOR OF SCIENCE"

Professional field: 7.2. Dental medicine

Doctoral programme: „Dental clinical allergology“

**Author:** Associate Professor Iliyana Ivanova-Stoeva PhD

Head of the Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Dental allergology  
and Physiotherapy, FDM, MU - Plovdiv

**Topic:** Work-related skin and respiratory symptoms among dental staff

### **Assessment of the topicality of the topic**

The thesis of Assoc. Prof. Stoeva presents the first large-scale study among dental staff in the country on occupational skin and respiratory symptoms, in which the survey was followed by a clinical examination and skin allergy tests. It presents results on the prevalence of skin and respiratory symptoms among dental staff, as well as the risk factors contributing to their occurrence. Contact sensitization to haptens from the professional environment was studied. The results obtained show a high frequency and progression of adverse reactions related to the work environment. The conclusions and contributions of the dissertation can serve as a reasonable basis for creating preventive programs for dentists. Occupational diseases in dentistry and contact allergic reaction in particular are recognized by the medical community, but professional protection is left to the personal initiative of the members of the dental team. A fact well-known to occupational medicine is the regulation of working hours in an aggressive work environment. As it is known, the working hours of dentists in private offices and group practices continues well over the regulated 6 hours a day. From this point of view, I find the dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Stoeva to be highly scientific, humane and socially significant.

### **Analysis and evaluation of the submitted materials**

The literature review is presented on 56 pages, 546 sources were listed, of which 8 in Cyrillic script.

The literature review is comprehensive, highly informative and ascertaining the need for research and improvement of the working environment of dental specialists in Bulgaria. It presents the current state of the etiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sensitization to occupational allergens at the European and national levels.

The dissertation has a clearly formulated aim, 5 specific tasks are set, which correspond to the set aim.

The thesis is focused on the main groups of dental specialists: dentists (4675), dental technicians (539), dental nurses (312), students of dental medicine from II to VI year of study (467). The total number of participants in the study was 5993, all of which, members of dental staff.

Data is statistically processed by indicators of gender, age and work experience.

The subjects of study in task 4 are 329 patients - men and women.

The study design of tasks 1, 2 and 4 is presented in fig. 10 and includes both the studied groups of dental specialists and the research methods.

The results of the study are described sequentially, according to the set tasks, within 128 pages, illustrated with 45 figures and 65 tables.

The results of each task are summarized and precisely interpreted in 9 general conclusions.

Current statistics show an increase in work-related allergic skin and respiratory diseases, especially among dental staff, who in their work environment are in constant contact with various antigens. According to Assoc. Prof. Stoeva, one third of the dental staff suffers from work-related skin symptoms, and a quarter suffers from work-related respiratory symptoms, which can occur even during the period of student training.

The knowledge of risk factors and the ability to reduce their impact is the basis of prevention of the allergic diseases either of the respiratory or other systems.

Assoc. Prof. Stoeva points out frequent hand washing, female gender, longer work experience, prolonged contact with protective gloves (more than 4 hours daily) and history for atopic dermatitis and contact allergy as the most significant risk factors for the occurrence of occupational skin symptoms for dental staff working in clinical conditions.

She identifies work experience of more than 10 years, the presence of atopic disease, exposure to substances from the working environment for more than 6 hours a day and female gender as the most significant risk factors for the occurrence of occupational respiratory symptoms for dental staff working in clinical conditions.

I consider the creation of an electronic register for dental staff with work-related skin and respiratory symptoms as a significant contribution of the thesis.



### **Author's summary**

The summary in its structure and content meets the requirements and reflects the main results obtained in the implementation of the set aim and tasks.

In connection with the dissertation, Assoc. Prof. Stoeva has presented 15 scientific publications.


### **Conclusion**

The presented dissertation of Assoc. Prof. Iliana Stoeva "Work-related skin and respiratory symptoms among dental staff" meets all the requirements of the Law For The Development Of Academic Staff In The Republic Of Bulgaria, the Rules for the application of the same law and the rules and regulations of MU-Plovdiv. The topic is of relevant and significant nature, the dissertation is properly constructed, with a well-chosen methodology and completed tasks, producing significant results, with significant scientific and applied value.

I give my positive assessment of the thesis and I suggest to the honored members of the scientific committee that Assoc. Prof. Iliyana Stoeva is awarded the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the doctoral programme "Dental Clinical Allergology".

Sofia

9. 2. 2021

Statement drawn up by:  .....

/ Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Svetoslavov Yanev, MD, DMD, PHD/